

What is claimed is:

1. A textured hearing instrument shell.

2. A hearing instrument, where at least a portion of the  
5 instrument is inserted in the ear of a user, comprising an outer surface  
where at least a portion of the outer surface has a texture.

3. A hearing instrument as set forth in claim 2, where the  
texture is non-smooth.

10

4. A hearing instrument as set forth in claim 2, where the  
texture comprises a non-reflective finish.

5. A hearing instrument as set forth in claim 2, where the  
15 texture comprises a series of lines, equally or unequally spaced, or a  
plurality of regular or irregular repeating shapes.

6. A hearing instrument as set forth in claim 2, where the  
texture comprises a predetermined or randomly generated pattern.

20

7. A hearing instrument as set forth in claim 2, further

2001P16281US

comprising a faceplate comprising a textured outer surface.

8. A hearing instrument outer surface, where:

at least a portion of the hearing instrument is inserted in the ear of a

5 user; and

at least a portion of the outer surface has a texture.

9. A hearing instrument outer surface as set forth in claim 8,

where the texture is non-smooth.

10

10. A hearing instrument outer surface as set forth in claim 8,

where the texture comprises a non-reflective finish.

11. A hearing instrument outer surface as set forth in claim 8,

15 where the texture comprises a series of lines, equally or unequally spaced,

or a plurality of regular or irregular repeating shapes.

12. A hearing instrument outer surface as set forth in claim 8,

where the texture comprises a predetermined or randomly generated

20 pattern.

13. A textured hearing instrument outer surface.

14. A hearing instrument where at least a portion of the instrument is inserted in the ear of a user and comprising an outer surface,  
5 where at least a portion of the outer surface has a texture made by a process comprising blasting the surface with an abrasive or grit, or applying ultraviolet light, laser, infrared heat, hot air, or another heat source to the surface.

10 15. A hearing instrument, where at least a portion of the instrument is inserted in the ear of a user, comprising an outer surface, where:

the hearing instrument is fabricated as a series of layers; and

at least a portion of the outer surface has a texture made by a  
15 process comprising applying waveforms to the edges of one or more of the layers during the process of fabrication.

16. A hearing instrument, where at least a portion of the instrument is inserted in the ear of a user, comprising an outer surface  
20 where at least a portion of the outer surface has a texture made by a process comprising:

fabricating a mold cavity derived from surface contours of the user's ear; and

modifying the mold cavity to create a texture in the outer surface.

5           17. A hearing instrument, where at least a portion of the instrument is inserted in the ear of a user, comprising a shell comprising an outer surface where at least a portion of the outer surface has a texture, where:

the texture comprises

10           a series of lines, equally or unequally spaced; or  
a plurality of regular or irregular repeating shapes; or  
a predetermined or randomly generated pattern; and

the texture is made by a process comprising

15           blasting the surface with an abrasive or grit; or  
applying ultraviolet light, laser, infrared heat, hot air, or  
another heat source to the surface; or  
applying waveforms to the edges of one or more of  
the layers during the process of fabrication.

20           18. A hearing instrument outer surface, where at least a portion of the instrument is inserted in the ear of a user and at least a portion of

2001P16281US

the outer surface has a texture, where:

the texture comprises

a series of lines, equally or unequally spaced; or

a plurality of regular or irregular repeating shapes; or

5 a predetermined or randomly generated pattern; and

the texture is made by a process comprising

blasting the surface with an abrasive or grit; or

applying ultraviolet light, laser, infrared heat, hot air, or

another heat source to the surface; or

10 applying waveforms to the edges of one or more of

the layers during the process of fabrication.

19. A hearing instrument, where at least a portion of the instrument is inserted in the ear of a user, comprising a shell comprising  
15 an outer surface where at least a portion of the outer surface has a texture, where:

the texture comprises

a series of lines, equally or unequally spaced; or

a plurality of regular or irregular repeating shapes; or

20 a predetermined or randomly generated pattern; and

the texture is made by a process comprising

2001P16281US

fabricating a mold cavity derived from surface contours of the user's ear; and

modifying the mold cavity to create the texture in the outer surface.

090435 083101  
FOFB0 STEH660